

Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)

(Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Rift Valley, Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Hantavirus, Congo-Crimean, and Venezuelan Hemorrhagic fevers)

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratory Services (LA SPHL) (504) 568-5371 or (504) 568-8102, 24 Hour Pager (504) 374-6669 or (877) 309-2867

**Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology
(800) 256-2748 (24 hours).**

**The SPHL is not equipped to process any specimen for hemorrhagic fever.
All specimens will be transported to the CDC.**

Remember that these samples may be highly infectious! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.

Specimen collection and transport

Contact the LA SPHL at (504) 568-4039 or (504) 568-8102 prior to collecting any samples to obtain specific instructions.

Clinical:

Collect whole blood, serum, tissues. Whole blood may be frozen. Do not centrifuge suspected VHF specimens because this increases risk to the laboratory worker. If serum specimens have already been prepared, these can be used. Place specimens in plastic tubes for shipping and storage and be sure that the tubes are sealed and properly labeled. Ship frozen on dry ice.

For fatal cases collect liver biopsy, skin biopsy, as well as other tissues for biopsy (spleen, lung, heart, and kidney). Biopsy specimens should be fixed in formalin and stored at room temperature (do not freeze).